



Attorney Docket No.: 30000.0002

Customer No.: 57362

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Ernst-Werner WAGNER

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Application No.: 10/584,905

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: June 28, 2006

Atty Dkt No: 30000.0002

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Customer No.: 57362

For: **INERTIZATION METHOD FOR REDUCING THE RISK OF FIRE**

FORWARDING INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

MAIL STOP TC

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the International Preliminary Report on Patentability, which issued on January 9, 2007. The cited reference US-B1-6 341,572 was already cited and characterized in an Information Disclosure filed on June 28, 2006, and accordingly, is not included.

No fee is believed to be required. Should any fee be required, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 13, 2007

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)
(PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2)

To:

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MEISSNER, BOLTE
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EING. 04. Jan. 2007

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28 December 2006 (28.12.2006)
Applicant's or agent's file reference M/AMR-016-PC
International application No. PCT/EP2004/013285
Applicant AMRONA AG et al

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International filing date (day/month/year)
23 November 2004 (23.11.2004)

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.☐

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).

☒

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

KR

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

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3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO
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TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference ep0413285	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/013285	International filing date (day/month/year) 23.11.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.12.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A62C39/00		
Applicant AMRONA AG		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

- a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
- ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
- ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____

_____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013285

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-14 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 1-10 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/2-2/2 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013285

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
1. Statement	
Novelty (N)	Claims 2-9 YES Claims 1, 10 NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 2-9 YES Claims 1, 10 NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-10 YES Claims NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)	
<p>This report makes reference to the following document:</p> <p>D1: US-B1-6 341 572 (JONES DAVID A ET AL), 29 January 2002 (2002-01-29)</p> <p>The present application does not meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claim 1 is not novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses are to that document): an inerting method for reducing the risk of a fire in a closed protected chamber, in which the oxygen content in the protected chamber with a predeterminable regulation range is kept at a regulated concentration lower than the operating concentration for a particular period of time by introduction of an oxygen-displacing gas from a primary source. That method is characterised in that, in the event of a failure of the primary source, the regulated concentration is maintained by a secondary source during an emergency operation period (lines 50-53).</p> <p>Dependent claim 10 does not contain any features which,</p>	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013285

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements; see document D1 and the corresponding passages indicated in the search report.

The combination of features in dependent claims 2-9 is neither known from nor suggested by the available prior art.